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1. HIGHLIGHTS. HEADLINES CONTINUE ON INDOCHINA; TUESDAY NYTIMES ALSO FRONTPAGED SOVIET HAS TRADE SURPLUS WITH WEST, ACCORDING CIA. WEDNESDAY PAPERS ALSO FRONTPAGED LISBON BANS AZORES USE TO AID ISRAEL. LITTLE COMMENT.

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1A. TUESDAY PAPERS INSIDE REPORTED SOYUZ FAILURE STIRS SOME CONCERN; TUESDAY BALTSUN CARRIED CIA REPORTEDLY HAS SOVIET SUB'S ATOMIC TORPEDOES; ALSO SOVIET FEARS REDUCED US COMMITMENT TO DETENTE. WASHPOST HAD EXPLOSION DELAYS TRIDENT; ALSO UPI LOCAL, SOVIETS ARE BELIEVED BUILDING CRUISE MISSILE BASE IN SOMALIA. WEDNESDAY PAPERS HAD MORE ON SOYUZ.

1B. WEDNESDAY PAPERS ALSO REPORTED INSIDE FORD SIGNS HERBICIDE BAN; WASHPOST HAD GENEVA BRIEF HEADED DENIAL BY INDIA; WASHSTAR HAD KENNEDY URGES BAN ON ATOMIC TESTS. THURSDAY PAPERS INSIDE HAVE COMMITTEE CUTS DEFENSE BUDGET; WASHPOST HAS KOSYGIN HITS SAIGON BUT NOT

US; BALTSUN HAS MOSCOW LAYS 35 PERCENT DROP IN US TRADE TO CONGRESS; THURSDAY NYTIMES HAS IKLE WARNS ON NUCLEAR SPREAD.

2. HERBICIDE. WEDNESDAY NYTIMES HAD WASHINGTON REUTERS REPORTING PRESIDENT FORD SIGNED PROCLAMATION BARRING THE FIRST USE OF HERBICIDES AND RIOT CONTROL GAS BY US FORCES EXCEPT IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, FOUR CASES IN WHICH US COULD USE RIOT CONTROL GAS: AREAS UNDER DIRECT US MILITARY CONTROL INCLUDING PRISON CAMPS; IN SITUATIONS WHERE CIVILIANS WERE USED TO MASK OR SCREEN MILITARY ATTACKS; IN RESCUE OF DOWNED AIRCRAFT CREWS IN ISOLATED AREAS; FOR PROTECTION OF CONVOYS AGAINST CIVIL DISTURB-ANCES AND GUERRILLA OPERATIONS. REUTER REPORTED NESSEN SAID US TOOK THE VIEW THAT CHEMICAL PROTOCOL DOESN'T COVER RIOT CONTROL AGENTS OR HERBICIDES AND PROCLAMA-TION WAS INTENDED TO SET OUT ADMINISTRATION POLICY.

2A. WEDNESDAY WASHPOST BALTSUN HAD WASHINGTON AP STRESS-ING FORD SIGNED EXECUTIVE ORDER RENOUNCING QUOTE AS A MATTER OF NATIONAL POLICY UNQUOTE THE FIRST USE OF HERBICIDES OR RIOT CONTROL AGENTS EXCEPT UNDER CERTAIN UNCLASSIFIED

SPECIFIED CONDITIONS, AP ADDING THAT, ALTHOUGH USE OF SUCH AGENTS BY US FORCES HAS BEEN WITHOUT PRIOR PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL, NESSEN SAID THE ORDER WAS ISSUED BECAUSE THESE AGENTS WERE NOT COVERED IN GENEVA PROTOCOL AND PRESIDENT WISHED TO TAKE THIS ACTION QUOTE ON HIS OWN UNQUOTE. AP REPORTED UNDER FORD'S ORDER AMERICAN FORCES CANNOT BE FIRST TO EMPLOY HERBICIDES EXCEPT FOR CONTROL OF VEGETATION WITHIN US BASES OR THEIR IMMEDIATE DEFENSIVE PERIMETERS. BALTSUN VERSION ADDED EXCEPTIONS ON RIOT CONTROL GASES MENTIONED EARLI-R.

3. NUCLEAR ITEMS. WEDNESDAY WASHPOST HAD BRIEF REUTERS FROM GENEVA SAYING INDIA DENIED ITS UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR

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EXPLOSION CAUSED OTHER COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP ATOMIC ARMS, MIS,RA SAYING IT WAS CLEAR CUT THAT IF ANY OTHER COUNTRY DECIDED TO DEVELOP SUCH ARMS IT WOULD DO SO FOR ITS OWN REASONS.

3A. WEDNESDAY WASHSTAR BRADSHER REPORTED ON WASHINGTON CONFERENCE LED BY ADRIAN FISHER ON NEXT MONTH'S GENEVA REVIEW OF NPT AT WHICH SEN. KENNEDY STRESSED NEED FOR A BAN ON ALL ATOMIC TESTING AND CRITICIZED NEW THRESHOLD TREATY AS A VIRTUAL MOCKERY OF A COMMITMENT TO RESTRAINT. KENNEDY ALSO CALLED FOR RESTRAINT IN SUPPLYING CONVENTIONAL ARMS TO VOLATILE AREAS TO AVOID ESCALATION INTO NUCLEAR ARMS RACE, ALSO CALLED ON US TO AFFIRM ITS

MILITARY COMMITMENTS TO CRITICAL ALLIES IN EUROPE AND JAPAN TO REASSURE THESE NON-NUCLEAR COUNTRIES OF US SUPPORT, IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. BRADSHER ADDED THAT IKLE WARNED THE MEETING THAT THE NEWS ON NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IS BAD.

3B. THURSDAY NYTIMES GELB WASHINGTON STRESSED IKLE WARNED THAT TRANSFER OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY PROVIDES BOTH MEANS AND COVER FOR SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND SAID US SUSPECTS INTENT TO MAKE NUCLEAR WEAPONS EXISTS IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES THOUGH CAPABILITY IS STILL LACKING. CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION WAS ORGANIZED BY ARMS CONTROL ASSOCIATION TO FOCUS PUBLIC ATTENTION ON PROBLEM PRIOR TO MEETING OF NUCLEAR NPT UNCLASSIFIED

SIGNATORIES IN MAY. KENNEDY ALSO SPOKE CRITICIZING ADMINISTRATION POLICY ON NUCLEAR SPREAD AS TOTALLY PREOCCUPIED WITH US-SOVIET RELATIONS, AND CHARGED THAT NEITHER US OR RUSSIA HAD LIVED UP TO OBLIGATIONS EMBODIED IN THE NONPROLIFERATION TREATY SIGNED IN 1968 TO REDUCE THEIR NUCLEAR ARSENALS AND STOP TESTING NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

4. DEFENSE. THURSDAY WASHPOST LOCAL AP REPORTED A GAO STUDY OF THE TRIDENT PROGRAM FOUND THAT A TEST-SITE EXPLOSION OF A TRIDENT MISSILE MOTOR LAST MAY HAS CAUSED FIVE-MONTH DELAY IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE WEAPON AND MAY REQUIRE REDUCTION OF MISSILE TESTS TO MEET SCHEDULED DEADLINES.

4A. THURSDAY NYTIMES SHANAHAN WASHINGTON REPORTED SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE GAVE TENTATIVE APPROVAL YESTERDAY TO SPENDING CEILING OF 91.9 BILLION ON DEFENSE, 2.1 BILLION LESS THAN PROPOSED BY FORD ADMINISTRATION, BUT 2.3 BILLION MORE THAN CEILING PROPOSED BY HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE.

4B. THURSDAY WASHPOST STORY SAYS GREATEST DIFFERENCE

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BETWEEN SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON
BUDGET WAS IN SIZE OF CUTS IN PENTAGON BUDGET, WITH
SENATE BACKING SMALLER 2.1 BILLION CUT AND DEBATE IN
SENATE PANEL SINGLING OUT SEVERAL AREAS OF DEFENSE
BUDGET FOR POSSIBLE CUTS INCLUDING BRINGING TROOPS HOME
FROM KOREA OKINAWA AND EUROPE AND SLOWING PROCUREMENT
OF NEW WEAPONS.

5. SOYUZ. TUESDAY NYTIMES HAD WASHINGTON UPI STRESSING
SOYUZ FAILURE RAIS:D NEW QUESTIONS ABOUT SOVIET UNION'S
ABILITY TO MEET JULY 15 DATE FOR LAUNCHING ANOTHER SOYUZ
TO MEET AN AMERICAN APOLLO IN ORBIT, AND MATTER TO BE

TAKEN UP TUESDAY IN REGULAR WEEKLY HOUSTON-MOSCOW TELEPHONE
CALL. WASHSTAR HAD MOSCOW DISPATCH BY CHITRIBUNE STRESS-
ING QUESTION OF SAFETY FOR THIS SUMMER'S JOINT ORBITAL
FLIGHT ALTHOUGH ABORTED SOYUZ LAUNCH HAD NO DIRECT CON-
NECTION WITH JULY MISSION AND TASS SAID LAUNCH FAILURE HAD
NOTHING TO DO WITH JOINT VENTURE. STORY NOTED ARRIVAL
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IN MOSCOW OF SPACE OFFICIALS WHO IMMEDIATELY BEGAN WORK ON
APOLLO-SOYUZ JOINT PREPARATIONS. STORY ADDED THERE IS
SOME DANGER THAT STRAY RADIO SIGNALS ACCIDENTALLY COULD
DISCHARGE AN EXPLOSIVE BOLT OR COLLAR PREMATURELY WITH
POSSIBLY FATAL RESULTS. WASHPOST O'TOOLE SAID SOYUZ
FAILURE HAS RAISED SERIOUS DOUBTS SOVIET UNION IS READY
FOR JOINT MISSION ON JULY 15, O'TOOLE ADDING NOBODY SAID
THE FAILURE OF SOYUZ 18 MEANT THAT JOINT VENTURE WOULD
HAVE TO BE POSTPONED BUT AT LEAST FOUR AMERICAN SPACE
SOURCES QUESTIONED WHETHER THE FAILURE MIGHT RECUR
WEN THE SOVIETS FLY THEIR LEG OF APOLLO-SOYUZ IN JULY.

5A. WEDNESDAY NYTIMES HAD WASHINGTON UPI REPORTING NASA
OFFICIALS SAID SOVIET UNION USED AN OLD-MODEL ROCKET IN
RECENT FAILURE BUT A MODERNIZED VERSION WILL LAUNCH THE
SOYUZ WHICH IS TO MEET THE AMERICAN CRAFT AND JULY 15
LAUNCHING DATE IS NOT AFFECTED, ACCORDING TO HOUSTON-
MOSCOW TELEPHONE CONTACT. WEDNESDAY WASHPOST HEADED
O'TOOLE, SOYUZ FAILURE TERMED NO THREAT TO PROJECT,
O'TOOLE REPORTING SOVIET UNION BLAMED SOYUZ FAILURE ON A
NOW-OBSOLETE ROCKET BOOSTER WHICH WON'T BE USED THIS
SUMMER, ACCORDING HOUSTON-MOSCOW TELEPHONE LINK, ALTHOUGH
AMERICAN OFFICIALS ARE STILL INTERESTED IN FURTHER DATA
ON THE FAILURE. WEDNESDAY WASHSTAR AP STRESSED NASA
OFFICIALS ARE SEEKING MORE DATA, BUT NASA SPOKESMAN
POINTED OUT THAT SOYUZ 18 TRIP WAS NOT A PRACTICE
MISSION FOR THE JOINT MISSION THIS SUMMER.

5B. WEDNESDAY BALTSUN HEADED MOSCOW SPECIAL STORY,
SOVIET SEEKS TO BELITTLE LATEST FAILURE IN SPACE, STORY
SAYING SOVIET SPACE OFFICIALS SOUGHT TO ASSURE US THAT

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SOYUZ FAILURE WILL NOT AFFECT JOINT FLIGHT, AS MOSCOW TELEPHONED HOUSTON TO EXPLAIN. STORY SAID SOVIET ASSURANCES CAME AS CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS OF THE JOINT FLIGHT RENEWED THEIR QUESTIONS, PROXMIRE TELLING SENATE LATEST FAILURE REINFORCES MY DEEP CONCERN UPCOMING FLIGHT MAY BE DANGEROUS TO AMERICAN ASTRONAUTS.

5C. TUESDAY NYNEWS HAD EDITORIAL ENTITLED, WHY TAKE CHANCES? EDITORIAL REFERRED TO SOYUZ 18 FAILURE AND SAID TIS IS SAME EQUIPMENT SOVIET UNION PLANS TO USE FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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JOINT JULY MISSION AND WHICH HAS BEEN HAVING MORE THAN

ITS SHARE OF TROUBLES LATELY. EDITORIAL SAID AMERICAN SPACE OFFICIALS HAVE EVERY REASON FOR CONCERN,FOR OUR ASTRONAUTS SHOULD NOT BE EXPOSED TO UNNECESSARY RISKS.

6. SOVIET RELATIONS. TUESDAY BALTSUN PARKS MOSCOW REPORTED THAT THE CALLS FOR AN AGONIZING REAPPRAISAL OF US FOREIGN POLICY ARE PROMPTING SERIOUS CONCERN IN MOSCOW THAT REASSESSMENT MIGHT LEAD TO A REDUCED AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO DETENTE, AND MOSCOW IS ALSO WORRIED THAT IT MAY BE BLAMED IN US FOR THE COMMUNIST OFFENSIVES IN INDOCHINA, FAILURE OF AMERICAN EFFORTS TO MEDIATE NEW MIDEAST TROOP DISENGAGEMENTS AND THE SHIFTS TO THE LEFT IN PORTUGAL AND GREECE, ADDING THAT A PRAVDA COMMENTATOR SAID MANY OF THE CALLS FOR REASSESSMENT WERE BASED ON ASSERTIONS THAT INTERNATIONAL DETENTE IS DEAD AND ARE FREQUENTLY COUPLED WITH DEMANDS FOR STRENGTHENING AMERICAN MILITARY POWER, BUT PARKS ADDS THAT MOSCOW HOLDS OUT CONSIDERABLE HOPE THAT SOBER THINKERS WILL PERSUADE AMERICAN PUBLIC ABOUT CONTINUED NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

6A. THURSDAY BALTSUN PARKS MOSCOW REPORTS SOVIET-AMERICAN TRADE DROPPED BY MORE THAN 35 PERCENT LAST YEAR ALTHOUGH MOSCOW'S TRADE WITH WEST JUMPED NEARLY 50 PER-CENT, ADDING SOVIET OFFICIALS ATTRIBUTE THE SHARP US DECLINE TO POLITICAL RESTRICTIONS WHICH LIMIT CREDITS FOR SOVIET PURCHASES AND PATOLICHEV SAID IN PRAVDA THAT UNLESS US REMOVES THESE RESTRICTIONS THE AMERICAN SHARE OF THE SOVIET MARKET WILL PROBABLY DECLINE FURTHER, ALTHOUGH MOSCOW STILL HOPES FOR THE MULTIBILLION-DOLLAR LEVEL ORIGINALLY FORESEEN.

6B. THURSDAY WASHPOST OSNOS MOSCOW REPORTS KOSYGIN SAID SUCCESS OF COMMUNIST FORCES IN SOUTH VIETNAM ARE AN INEVITABLE RESULT OF THE STRUGGLE OF EVERYTHING NEW AND PROGRESSIVE IN THE WORLD AGAINST THE REACTIONARY, OSNOS ADDING THAT KOSYGIN DIDN'T EVEN MENTION USA AND THIS OMISSION IN TASS VERSION IS IN KEEPING WITH APPARENT

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SOVIET EFFORT TO TAKE A GENERALLY LOW-KEY APPROACH TO
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THE REVERSES TO LONG-TIME US POLICIES IN INDOCHINA. KISSINGER

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